

Philmore's father died when he was age 4 and his siblings and he missed the first 6 weeks of school to pick cotton and help their mother buy food and clothing for school. His hatred of picking cotton inspired him to do well in school because their mother would remind them that their choice was either go to school or continue to pick cotton.

Philmore graduated from Tennessee State University with bachelor of science degrees in mechanical and metallurgical engineering in May of 1962. He has done graduate studies in material science at UCLA and UC Berkeley. He was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force through the University's ROTC program. While in the Air Force, he served as a project engineer for the Titan Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Program at Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, California, from 1962–1965. During his tour of duty here, he worked in the Materials Engineering Department and developed a number of material specifications for missile components. He received a Superior Accomplishment Award for completing a record number of projects updating the Titan and Atlas Missile programs.

Philmore also worked in the community while at Norton Air Force Base. In 1964, he spearheaded the project to establish a new chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Pi Rho Chapter, in San Bernardino, California. The chapter offered scholarships and social-economic programs to the community under his leadership. He was selected as "Chapter and District Omega man of the Year."

Philmore received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Air Force in August 1965 and accepted a position with Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California, in October 1965, where he directed the Foam Salvage Vessels Research and Development Program. He received a Superior Accomplishment Award for developing an economical method of testing the flotation material in the laboratory rather than the costly ocean testing.

In 1972, Philmore was promoted to technical support branch head of the Nuclear Inspection Division of Mare Island Nuclear Submarine Overhaul Program. He received a third Superior Accomplishment Award for Outstanding Supervision of Training, Technical Support and Records of Naval Nuclear Work. From 1979 to 1983, Graham worked as an internal auditor for the Nuclear Reactor Division of the Nuclear Engineering Department and was assigned as the Director of Training for the department and supervised the training of some 250 engineers and technicians. In 1986, he was promoted to Supervisor, Nuclear Engineer and became the first and only African American supervisor in the Nuclear Engineering Department's history of Mare Island Naval Shipyard. During his administration, the Department received the highest grades to date on written exams during an audit from Washington, DC, and Philmore was awarded one of the highest monetary awards in the history of the Nuclear Engineering Department's incentive awards program for outstanding performance in upgrading the training program.

Philmore continued his work in the community by establishing a new chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in Vallejo. In 1966, he started the Continentals of Omega Boys Club with six boys; it has grown to more than 500 members and is now called the Continentals of Omega Boys & Girls Club, Inc. The or-

ganization is considered one of the top boys and girls clubs in the country. The club has produced a number of doctors, lawyers, businessmen, educators, engineers, skilled workers, and many other outstanding citizens. Academics is the major focus of the club and more than 70 percent of the membership achieve school honor rolls each year. More than 200 members have attended colleges and trade schools across the country and Philmore and members have received more than 63 awards for outstanding community contributions during the club's existence. When he retired from Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Philmore devoted himself completely to the club, growing it into the valuable asset it is today.

Through the years Philmore was nominated for a multitude of awards and is the proud recipient of the NAACP Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Good Neighbor Award, Salute to America Lifetime Merit Award, Profile of Excellence Award, Martin Luther King, Jr., Humanitarian Award, "Who's Who" among Black Americans, Outstanding Young Men of America and several selections as Omega Man of the year and Citizen of the Year for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Philmore has always been active with Friendship Baptist Church in Vallejo, where he served 10 years as superintendent of Sunday Church School and has taught Sunday School for 37 years, including his years in high school.

He was married to the late Jamella Nelson Graham and they have two children, daughter, Deidre LeNore Graham and son, Montoya Reed, both graduates of Tennessee State University. Deidre obtained degrees in English and criminal justice and Montoya earned a BS degree in biology and has done graduate study at TSU in animal science.

Madam Speaker, because of Mr. Graham's devotion to his family, his community, and his country, I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize his tireless efforts and ask all Members of the House to join me in wishing him well.

#### RECOGNIZING GERRY CUSHMAN

#### HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the hard work and achievements of Gerry Cushman, a fisherman from Maine who recently won the prestigious Golden V—Notch award from the Maine Lobstermen's Association, an association of more than 1,200 lobstermen from Eastport to Kittery. This award recognizes a fisherman who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help preserve the lobster industry. Gerry won this award not just for his effort to protect and preserve the lobster industry but for his steadfast dedication to the entire Maine commercial fishing industry.

Gerry Cushman serves on the Board of Directors of the Maine Lobstermen's Association, is a member of the Zone D Lobster Council, and sits on the State's Lobster Advisory Council. He also works with the Port Clyde Fishermen's Co-op and the Port Clyde Draggermen's Co-op: a joint working group to preserve the fishing community of Port Clyde.

Gerry has championed the lobster industry both on the water and on the dock. He helped to secure a \$340,000 grant from the Land for Maine's Future Fund to facilitate building and expanding a fishing pier in Port Clyde for lobstermen and groundfishermen as well as two bait companies. The grant is part of a larger initiative to protect working waterfront spaces along Maine's coast. Working waterfronts are rapidly disappearing in the State of Maine and these resources are crucial to preserve both fisheries and communities.

I have had the privilege of meeting Gerry and seeing first hand his dedication to ensuring that future generations of Maine fishermen will have both lobsters to harvest, and a place to land their catch. I admire Gerry and the men and women who work tirelessly to make certain that the fishing industry and the communities they support are preserved for future generations. I echo Gerry's words that "what we leave for the next generation is important." Small fishing communities across the country are beginning to take a leading role in the management of the fishery resources on which they all depend, and Gerry Cushman is one of the leaders in this effort. I would like to once again thank Gerry for his hard work and I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF NORCO'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an exceptional town in my congressional district. The town of Norco, California, was dedicated on May 13, 1923. Founded by a dynamic entrepreneur, Rex B. Clark, and funded by his wife Grace Scripps Clark, daughter of powerful newspaper mogul James Scripps. This 15-square-mile community of Norco began as a California agricultural powerhouse and today is known as "Horse Town U.S.A." Clark's original concept was to develop a community of "go-getters" whereby a man could live and feed his family off the land. With a town motto of "Acres of Neighbors," the dream was wildly successful as Norco brand tomatoes, grapes, berries, lettuce, chickens, and other produce were sent all over the United States.

A chance discovery of hot mineral water in 1926 led Rex Clark to yet another dream: The Norconian Resort Supreme—a 700-acre masterpiece that opened to worldwide acclaim on February 2, 1929, complete with 60-acre man-made lake, magnificent golf course, Lake Casino, hotel, spa, separate chauffeurs' quarters and the only Southern California AAU Qualifying outdoor pool until the 1932 Olympic games. Hollywood flocked to the resort and stars such as Clark Gable, Norma Shearer, Buster Keaton and Joan Crawford were regular visitors at what may well have been the finest resort of its kind on the west coast. MGM and Fox Studios held company picnics on the site as did Disney Studios who held a famous party in 1938 to commemorate the success of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs".

On May 20, 1928, the lavish swimming and diving pools opened to greet the 1928 USA

Men and Women's Olympic Swimming and Diving Team. Swimmer Cecily Cuhna highlighted the day with setting a world record. If a swimmer or diver participated in the 1928, 1932 or 1936 Olympics those athletes competed, trained or exhibited at the Norconian Resort.

Many more memorable events and activities occurred in the coming years and in the most unlikely of places: the poultry town of Norco. On December 8, 1941, the depression-weary resort became one of the preeminent naval hospitals in the Nation and at its peak in 1945 serviced 5,000 wounded, sick and battle-weary sailors and marines. The first patients were casualties of the infamous Pearl Harbor attack and recuperated in the exquisite hotel rooms. The Naval Hospital quickly set the standard in a number of areas which included the treatment of polio, use of penicillin to conquer malaria and tuberculosis, and the development of prosthetics and occupational therapy.

Norco was also the birthplace of wheelchair basketball on the wheels of the fabulous "Rolling Devils." The stars, who once were guests of the former Norconian Resort, turned out "for the boys"; Gary Cooper, Abbott and Costello, The Three Stooges, Marlene Dietrich, Jack Benny, Bob Hope and dozens of other stars entertained wounded heroes from battles in the Pacific. Eleanor Roosevelt was also a visitor, as was Helen Keller, and ball club owner Bill Veeck, a wounded marine, guided his Cleveland Indians to a World Series Championship from a hospital bed in Norco.

Norco citizens rallied behind the war effort with record bond sales and patriotism on many occasions raising thousands of dollars more than cities ten times larger in size and population. After World War II and Korea, Norco once again became an agricultural powerhouse, but, with the closing of the Naval Hospital in 1957, the entire area went into an economic tailspin. However, in 1963 a long forgotten real estate agent scrawled the words "Horse Property for Sale" on a piece of white butcher paper and very quickly Norco became the home to horse lovers. Incorporated in December of 1964 to protect its "rural lifestyle," Norco is home to a community fiercely devoted to the equestrian lifestyle with large properties, extensive open space and a horse trail on every street—120 miles of horse trails to be exact.

Over the weekend of May 9, 10, and 11, 2008, Norconians will remember their past and celebrate a truly unique Southern California Equestrian lifestyle. It is an honor to represent the town of Norco in Congress and I congratulate the town and residents on 85 years of service to their country and community.

LTG MICHAEL HAMEL: HONORING  
A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, the Space and Missile System Center, SMC, at L.A. Air Force Base plays the critical role in the design, production, and launch of our country's most sophisticated military satellites. Located

in El Segundo, CA, in the center of my congressional district, SMC has enjoyed 58 consecutive successful launches. Employing 6,500 military and civilian personnel nationally, with a whopping \$10 billion annual budget—SMC is a major economic driver in southern California.

The importance of SMC to our national security cannot be overstated either. In my many terms in Congress, I've always worked closely with the SMC commander, who is much more than a mission manager. LTG Mike Hamel, the present commander, retires in July, and I rise to honor his extraordinary service.

Mike and I have often talked about America's strategy for space. Framing a new, nationally integrated space policy—one bringing together the civil, military, and commercial sectors—is a common goal of ours. I applaud him for his visionary leadership on this issue—and look forward to more conversations about getting it right.

Mike Hamel has served his country with distinction for 36 years, since receiving his commission as second lieutenant from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1972. In the course of 16 assignments, he rose to the rank of lieutenant general, which he attained on June 1, 2005.

The change of command ceremony occurs May 15, a date Congress is in session. Though I will miss the transfer of command to the very able GEN John Sheridan, I look forward to partnering with him and to welcoming a tanned and relaxed Mike Hamel to Washington after he and his wife, Linda, complete their drive across the country.

Thanks, Mike, on behalf of a grateful Nation.

#### NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of H. Res. 1086, a resolution in recognition of National Nurses Week, which will be celebrated May 6 through May 12, 2008. As a proud member of the Congressional Nursing Caucus, I added my name as cosponsor to this worthy resolution.

Nurses Week has been celebrated every year since 2003 and coincides with the May 12th birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. We recognize this week, as we should all 52 weeks of the year, the critical role nurses play in providing safe, high-quality, and preventative health care.

Providing this type of adequate health care is essential, not only across the Nation, but especially in rural America. As a longtime friend of hard-working West Virginians, I believe all Americans deserve to have access to quality, affordable health care. Throughout my tenure, I have continued to support programs that will improve this access, and I believe that providing quality nurses is part of this goal. This is why I support increased funding for Nursing Workforce Development Programs so that those who answer the call to serve others through nursing have the support and funding they need to achieve that goal.

Nursing care is an essential and necessary aspect of our health care infrastructure, and it is therefore important that we continue to pro-

vide every opportunity to recruit and maintain more nurses, particularly in rural areas like southern West Virginia. Nursing programs in my district such as those at St. Mary's Hospital, Marshall University, and Mountain State University, along with countless others around the State, help to provide a vital service to their fellow citizens.

I encourage the people of West Virginia, and the entire Nation, to observe National Nurses Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients. They make significant contributions to the lives of so many every day without once asking for the recognition they clearly deserve.

#### TRIBUTE TO WAVERLY-SHELL ROCK WRESTLING TEAM

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by the Waverly-Shell Rock wrestling team at the Iowa State Wrestling Tournament in Des Moines this past winter.

Waverly-Shell Rock took all the drama out of the Class 3A team finals by winning the State title a day early. Needing just one win to wrap up the title, Waverly-Shell Rock's 112-pound freshman, Cody Caldwell, pinned his opponent in 4 minutes and 45 seconds. The Go-Hawks went on to win three more. Waverly-Shell Rock wrapped up the State Tournament by breaking the State record for team points in a State Tournament dating back to 2001 and became the first team to break the 200-point mark in a State meet.

I congratulate Waverly-Shell Rock for winning the Iowa Class 3A State championship. Waverly-Shell Rock's last title came in 2005.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Waverly-Shell Rock wrestling team, both on and off the mat, and I am proud to serve them in Congress.

#### CONGRATULATING MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE, CUNY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York on its' newly announced initiative to implement two new bachelor degree programs.

Medgar Evers College has long possessed an unparalleled reputation in the field of adult education. The college provides its students with a unique experience, which combines academic excellence in nearly 100 areas of study with real-world experience. This unique combination has led to the continued success of its students. As a result, the State Board of Regents and the City University of New York accreditation committee approved the allocation of money to fund two new bachelor degree programs: the Bachelor of Arts in